

7. (Amended) An image processing system according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, in which the means for clustering objects together clusters objects which are separated by less than a predetermined limit.

8. (Amended) An image processing system according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, in which the means for clustering objects together clusters objects which are not separated by any boundary defined by the boundary data.

12. (Amended) A method according to claim ~~79,~~ 79, in which the boundary data is derived from background data in the multi-level digital representation.

15. (Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 10 to 14~~ claim 10 in which the step of clustering objects together clusters objects separated by less than a predetermined limit.

16. (Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 10 to 15~~ claim 10, in which the step of clustering objects together clusters objects which are not separated by any boundary defined by the boundary data.